

Nature Journaling: Hidden Figures

You can use numbers to observe and describe natural objects. Find a natural object, such as a plant, to focus on. Or explore multiple objects in a place like your backyard or a park. Record your observations on the back of this paper, on another sheet of blank paper, or in a journal or sketchbook.

Ways to Quantify - Try one or more of these:

<p style="text-align: center;">Measure</p> <p>Measure length and distance between things.</p> <p>base of bushes are 3 feet apart</p> <p>bush is as tall as my waist</p> <p>Choose clear starting and ending points.</p> <p>Write down the units.</p> <p>Use measuring tools (including your body).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Time</p> <p>Time anything in motion, such as:</p> <p>how long an animal's behavior lasts ↓ Call/song lasts 3 sec.</p> <p>how long between specific behaviors or events ↓ 5 sec. between calls</p> <p>how long it takes something to move a certain distance ↓ flies across field in 2 sec.</p> <p>Count seconds, or use tools like a stopwatch or calendar.</p> <p>Record the units.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Count</p> <p>Count numbers of individual organisms.</p> <p>27 of these flowers in the field</p> <p>Count numbers of parts of an organism. ↓ 5 petals on each flower</p> <p>Count nonliving things.</p> <p>4 rocks taller than my knee near the field</p> <p>Add words to give context to your numbers.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Estimate</p> <p>Use estimation for things that are hard to count or measure, like:</p> <p>large numbers ↓ about 50 seagulls (To estimate, I counted 10 and then saw about how many groups of 10 I thought there were.)</p> <p>large distances ↓ birds fly up when I get about 100 meters away</p> <p>percent cover ↓ about 3/10 of the sky is covered in clouds</p> <p>Write "about" and other words that say what the number means.</p>

After nature journaling, think about: What patterns did you notice?

based on activity from *How to Teach Nature Journaling* by John Muir Laws and Emilie Lygren, available at howtoteachnaturejournaling.com